

REMARKS

The Office Action of August 20, 2003 has been reviewed along with the references cited therein. Claims 1-54 are pending in the application. Claims 13-24, 29-31, and 44-54 have been allowed by the examiner. Additionally, the examiner has indicated the allowability of Claims 3, 8, 10-11, 35, 39, and 41 if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9, 12, 25-28, 32-34, 36-38, 40, and 42-43 were rejected under either 35 USC 102(e) in view of Jones '007 or under 103(a) in view of Jones and other art. The concurrently-filed Declarations under 37 CFR 1.131 effectively eliminate Jones '007 as a valid reference. The effective date of Jones '007 as a reference is its filing date of August 22, 2000. This is less than one year prior to Applicants' filing date of June 13, 2001. Applicants invented the claimed subject matter prior to the Jones effective date. See attached Declarations from inventors. Finally, Jones '007 does not claim Applicants' invention. Consequently, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

If the examiner is of the opinion that a telephone interview would speed prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to call Peter V. Schroeder at 214-220-0444.

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any fees or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 03-3840. A duplicate copy of this fee authorization sheet is enclosed for this purpose.

Dated: November ¹¹~~10~~, 2003

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